

THE ERA OF DISCOVERY.

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In the leafy month of June, in the year of grace 1667, that merry monarch and somewhat dissolute man, Charles the Second, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c., &c., was graciously pleased to grant unto his "right trusty and well beloved cousin and counsellor, Edward, Earl of Clarendon, our high Chancellor of England; our right trusty and entirely beloved cousin and counsellor, George, Duke of Albemarle, master of our horse," and with like expressions of courtesy and insincere regard, to the Earl of Craven, Lord Berkléy, Lord Ashley, Sir George Carteret, Sir John Colleton, and Sir William Berkeley, the most magnificent domain ever conferred by a sovereign upon subjects in modern times, or perhaps in all time. Little did Charles know what he was giving, and as little did these subjects know what they were receiving. Even now but few consider the imperial character of the territory granted.

It embraced "all that province, territory, or tract of land, situate, lying and being within our dominions of America, extending north and eastward as far as the north end of Currituck river or inlet, upon a straight westerly line to Wyoming creek, which lies within or about the degrees of thirty-six and thirty minutes, northern latitude; and so west in a direct line as far as *the South Seas*; and south and westward as far as the degrees of twenty-nine inclusive, of northern latitude; and so west in a direct line as far as the South Seas; together with all and singular the ports, harbors, bays, rivers and inlets belonging unto the province or territory aforesaid; and also all the soils, lands, fields, woods, mountains, farms, lakes, rivers, bays and islets," &c., &c., to be found therein.

The vast expanse stretches across the entire continent, from